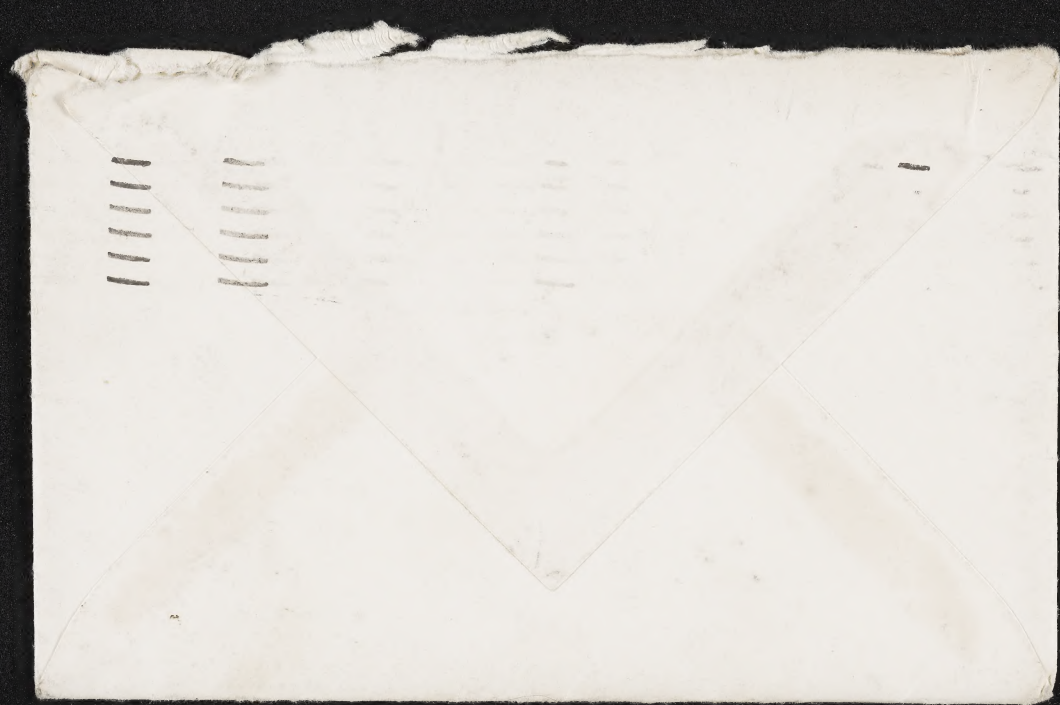


Mr. Ralph C. Bean  
48 Emerson Street  
Wakefield  
Massachusetts



Dear Mr. Bean — This mail  
was stimulating this morning —  
your letter and a tube of a beautiful  
Kelly green tooth paste, and as  
kindling, a circular from Boys'  
Town! I was sitting ungarnished,  
unshaven and apathetic, gazing  
out into the garden.

After filling my mouth with  
delicious mint-flavored green tooth  
and reading your letter, I  
actually got up enough steam  
to be ready to receive by 11.30 A.M.

as to the glaucous under surface.  
It develops with maturity!

The two contrasting specimens  
brought from Vermont are now  
identical. Furthermore, the  
specimen that you examined  
here is now completely glaucous  
under leaf. Though there is  
undoubtedly a race of Jacks  
that has given rise to the  
concept of *A. Stewardsoni*,  
whom I am really acquainted  
with it, I believe that )  
shall be dubious of its  
specific rank.



I didn't find my spree at all exhausting, but the subsequent days in which I was commended to move my uncle's widow to her summer home at Cape Porpoise, and the interminable fussing and fanning which my aunt Caroline can work up over decorating gowns left me completely exhausted for days.

How can I be expected to hold up my end with learned professional "botanologists" (as the Boy Scout said) with all the treasures of Harvard at their disposition! One definite conclusion may be drawn

I am inclined to believe that, except for acknowledged calcophiles, that the physical characteristics of soil here in New England are more important than the soil reaction. In general, I assume that plants of European origin are more responsive to a sweet soil than are most Asiatics.

I lay most of my difficulties to too heavy and tenacious a soil with concomitant lack of drainage. When I have deliberately created a pocket of artificially prepared soil (with cinders, ash, sand, disintegrated granite, peat, leaf mold, etc) so far I have never failed with a plant ordinarily unhappy

in my garden. The *Lamium*s  
are regularly eliminated, and  
being of little value, have  
never been fused with. *Ajuga*  
*genevensis* is of similar habit  
and of similar reaction to my  
garden, as you know.

*Dicentra spectabilis* has  
done well in my garden  
in a pocket of lighter soil,  
well enriched and well watered.

Otherwise this twisted fleshy  
root partially decays. One  
mystery in my garden still  
holds, for I have not conquered  
*Trollius*, than which nothing  
could be more weedy in appropriate  
swampy pastures in the Alps.



petals about a mass of  
golden stamens, held stiffly  
erect, dominated the garden  
for four days. Now there  
will be little of moment for  
a fortnight. Two officinalis  
hybrids - Chocolat Soldier  
and Rose Marie - will bloom  
before then but the plants  
show the effects of having been  
moved and this bloom will  
not be typical. Until you  
know some of these, you  
don't know the glory of  
peonies.



I am sorry that you did not "look in" on your journey home - whether I had been in or not. *Paeonia officinalis* in the single form with partially converted stamens ("anemoneiflora") was unusually brilliant, as was *P. officinalis* rosea, *superba* pl. f. and *P. officinalis* alba pl. f.. But John

Harvard was superb —

I went out every half hour during daylight for worship. A Very large very dark cardinal red bloom of four rows of

I shall have to go to  
Boston next week probably  
Thursday and will telephone

Yours faithfully,  
Charles Stockman

153 High Street  
Newburyport  
Massachusetts

June 7, 1952

P.S. Does "Amy" smoke cigars?